

16. (AMENDED) A method for packaging absorbent articles so that the absorbent articles are compact and portable, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an absorbent article, the absorbent article occupying a volume of space in three dimensions;

reconfiguring the absorbent article such that the volume of space is reduced [in at least one of the dimensions] by at least 30%;

retaining the absorbent article when reconfigured.

21. (NEW) A set as claimed in claim 11 wherein each of said absorbent articles is a diaper.

22. (NEW) A set as claimed in claim 13 wherein each of said absorbent articles is a diaper.

REMARKS

An Office Action was issued September 19, 2001, in the subject application in which:

- a) the claims were subject to a restriction requirement;
- b) claims 1-11 and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102; and
- c) claims 13-15 were objected to but deemed allowable.

Applicant has affirmed the election of claims 1-5, 9, 11-16, 19, and 20 of Species 1 and 4 above.

Summarizing the Amendment, the non-elected claims 6-8, 10, 17, and 18 have been canceled; however, Applicant reserves the right to prosecute these non-elected claims in a divisional application. Claims 2 and 3 have also been canceled. In addition, claims 1 and 16 have been amended and new claims 21 and 22 have been added to more distinctly claim and particularly point out the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 11-16, and 19-22 remain at bar in the application. Each of the rejections set forth in the Office Action is addressed below. Reconsideration of the subject application as amended is respectfully requested.